

FILED  
RICHARD W. NAGEL  
CLERK OF COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

1/19/21

IN RE: SEARCH WARRANT FOR  
INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
DROPBOX ACCOUNT ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE EMAIL ADDRESS  
W.HITCHINGS@GMAIL.COM

Case No. 3:21MJ27

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DIST. OHIO  
WEST. DIV. DAYTON

**Filed Under Seal**

**APPLICATION FOR ORDER COMMANDING DROPBOX INC. NOT TO NOTIFY ANY  
PERSON OF THE EXISTENCE OF SEARCH WARRANT**

The United States requests that the Court order Dropbox Inc. not to notify any person (including the subscribers and customers of the account(s) listed in the search warrant) of the existence of the attached search warrant for a period of one year.

Dropbox Inc. is a provider of an electronic communication service, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2510(15), and/or a remote computing service, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2711(2). Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703, the United States obtained the attached search warrant, which requires Dropbox Inc. to disclose certain records and information to the United States. This Court has authority under 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b) to issue “an order commanding a provider of electronic communications service or remote computing service to whom a warrant, search warrant, or court order is directed, for such period as the court deems appropriate, not to notify any other person of the existence of the warrant, search warrant, or court order.” *Id.*

In this case, such an order would be appropriate because the attached search warrant relates to an ongoing criminal investigation that is not public, and its disclosure may alert the targets to accounts under investigation. The investigation also relates to the possible sexual exploitation of minor children, and alerting the targets may put the children in danger. Accordingly, there is reason to believe that notification of the existence of the attached search warrant will seriously jeopardize the investigation or unduly delay a trial, including by giving targets an opportunity to flee or continue flight from prosecution, destroy or tamper with evidence, change patterns of behavior, intimidate potential witnesses, or endanger the life or physical safety of a minor child. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b). Some of the evidence in this

investigation is stored electronically. If alerted to the existence of the search warrant, the subjects under investigation could destroy that evidence, including information saved to their personal computers.

WHEREFORE, the United States respectfully requests that the Court grant the attached Order directing Dropbox Inc. not to disclose the existence or content of the attached search warrant for a period of one year, except that Dropbox Inc. may disclose the attached search warrant to an attorney for Dropbox Inc. for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

The United States further requests that the Court order that this application and any resulting order be sealed until further order of the Court. As explained above, these documents discuss an ongoing criminal investigation that is neither public nor known to all of the targets of the investigation. Accordingly, there is good cause to seal these documents because their premature disclosure may seriously jeopardize that investigation.

Executed on January 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID M. DEVILLERS  
United States Attorney

s/Christina Mahy  
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CHRISTINA MAHY (0092671)  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
200 West Second Street, Suite 600  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Office: (937) 225-2910  
Fax: (937) 225-2564  
E-mail: christina.mahy@usdoj.gov